



**American Citizen Services Unit
U.S. Embassy Santo Domingo
Warden Message**



TO: Consular Wardens

FROM: ACS Unit

DATE: 28 July 2006

SUBJECT: Updated Absentee Voting Information for Georgia and Pennsylvania

As part of our effort to provide you with updated information on voting issues, the following message is being re-broadcast for your information. Please circulate this to your constituents.

**GEORGIA TO HOLD CONGRESSIONAL RUNOFF ELECTION
ON AUGUST 8, 2006**

The State of Georgia will hold a federal runoff election on August 8, 2006. The candidates are:

- Democratic Party, 4th Congressional District
- Hank Johnson and Cynthia McKinney

Under the provisions of the Georgia Election Code, Section 21-2-381.2, the Georgia Secretary of State offers a special absentee ballot, called the Statewide Write-in Absentee Ballot (SWAB) for eligible voters covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act in the event of a runoff election. Voters who received an absentee ballot for the Primary Election automatically received a SWAB (including all necessary envelopes) along with the absentee ballot.

If you have previously requested all absentee ballots as allowed by law, your local county registrar will also mail you a regular absentee ballot containing all runoff races for which you are eligible to vote. In the event both ballots are received prior to the deadline, the registrars will count the regular absentee ballot and not the SWAB.

VAOs should contact those citizens they assist who are Georgia voters and inform them of this news release and provide help to them in returning their absentee ballot. Overseas *UOCAVA* citizens should fill out and return their ballots immediately upon receipt.

PENNSYLVANIA CHANGES BALLOT RETURN DEADLINES FOR ALL ELECTIONS

Effective July 1, 2006, Pennsylvania law changed its ballot return deadlines for all citizens covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* for all elections. The voted ballot envelope can now be postmarked not later than the day before the election and be received in the County Board of Elections office by 5:00 p.m. on the seventh day following an election. Prior to this, the ballot had to arrive at the County Board of Elections office by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election. This allows three additional days for Pennsylvania UOCAVA voters to mail their ballots to their local election official and seven days ballot transit time after election day to reach the local elections office.

The Pennsylvania state pages of the Voting Assistance Guide have been updated to reflect the new changes. The pages are available at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag/pdfvag/pa.pdf>.

The FVAP can be contacted through the DoD Voting Information Center (VIC). Citizens may reach the VIC toll-free from 67 countries using the toll-free numbers listed on the FVAP website, www.fvap.gov. The VIC provides recorded messages from candidates, as well as other information concerning elections, 24 hours a day. Questions regarding the above may also be referred to the Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program, Department of Defense, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301-1155, vote@fvap.ncr.gov and on the World Wide Web at www.fvap.gov.

Additionally, the Voting Assistance Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo is available to answer questions about absentee voting. To contact the Voting Assistance Officer, call (809) 731-4248 or send an e-mail to BentonML2@state.gov. Look for notices from the Embassy throughout the year relating to the 2006 elections.

Americans living or traveling in the Dominican Republic are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy through the State Department's travel registration website, <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. **American citizens who have previously registered with the U.S. Embassy do not need to register again.**

For updated information on the security situation in the Dominican Republic, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Embassy. The Consular Section Embassy is located at the corner of Cesar Nicolas Penson Street and Máximo Gómez Avenue, Santo Domingo, D.R.; telephone 809-731-4294; after hours emergency telephone 809-221-2171; ACS unit fax 809-689-6142; e-mail acssantodom@state.gov; web page www.usemb.gov.do.

Updated information on travel in Santo Domingo may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States, or from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. For further information please consult the Consular Information Sheet for Santo Domingo, which is available via the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>.